

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 CU-02 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06

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HEW-02 OMB-01 SAB-01 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12

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NEA-10 /104 W

X ----- 086133

R 231824Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3410

??INFO AMEMBASSY PANAMA

USMISSION USUN

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 24613

NESCO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PORG, PN, US

SUBJECT: PANAMANIAN INITIATIVE IN INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATIONS

REF: PANAMA 5545

1. AMBASSADOR BUSTAMANTE PAID CALL ON PERMREP AFTER-
NOON SEPT. 22. BUSTAMANTE, WHO APPEARED NERVOUS, SAID
CALL WAS TO BE TAKEN AS A PERSONAL ONE TO ALERT PERMREP
OF PLANNED PANAMANIAN INITIATIVES IN UNESCO AND OTHER
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. BUSTAMANTE SAID NO ACTION
WOULD BE TAKEN AT THE CURRENT SESSION OF THE EXBD, BUT
ACTION WAS PLANNED FOR THE SPRING AND FALL SESSIONS OF
NEXT YEAR, AND CERTAINLY AT THE GENERAL CONFERENCE IN
1976.

2. WHEN ASKED WHAT ACTION WAS PLANNED, BUSTAMANTE WAS
VAGUE, SAYING THAT THERE WOULD BE RESOLUTIONS INTRO-
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DUCED TO HIGHLIGHT THE INEQUITIES OF THE EDUCATIONAL
SYSTEM IN PANAMA AND IN THE CANAL ZONE AND THAT THERE
WOULD BE A CALL FOR "MORAL" ACTION. WHEN PRESSED EX-
ACTLY WHAT THIS MEANT, BUSTAMANTE SAID THEY WERE NOT

PLANNING ANYTHING ALONG THE LINES OF THE CUBAN ATTACKS ON CHILE, BUT THAT THEIR EFFORTS WOULD BE DIGNIFIED AND MODERATE. HE SAID NO SPECIFIC PROGRAMMATIC ACTION WILL BE ASKED, SUCH AS A REPORT BY THE UNESCO DIRECTOR GENERAL. HE CONTINUALLY MADE REFERENCE TO THE NEED FOR A "CALL TO MORALITY" IN SUPPORT OF PANAMA'S CLAIMS ON THE CANAL ZONE.

3. BUSTAMANTE URGED PERMREP TO TREAT HIS CALL IN UT-MOST CONFIDENCE AND NOT TO DISCUSS IT AT UNESCO. HE SAID HE WAS ANXIOUS THAT WE HEAR IT FIRST FROM HIM WELL BEFORE ACTION WAS COMMENCED. PERMREP ASKED THAT HE BE KEPT WELL INFORMED IN ADVANCE OF ANY PLANNED ACTIONS AND THAT PERHAPS THROUGH QUIET CONSULTATIONS UNPLEASANT SITUATIONS COULD BE AVOIDED. BUSTAMANTE, STILL APPEARING NERVOUS AND TENSE, SAID THAT HIS CALL SHOULD BE CONSIDERED "PERSONAL" OUT OF HIS FRIENDSHIP FOR PERMREP AND NOT "OFFICIAL". HE MADE REFERENCE TO HIS TELEVISION APPEARANCES AND ARTICLES IN PANAMA PRIOR TO RETURNING TO PARIS AND SEEMED TO REGRET HAVING BEEN SO OUTSPOKEN. BUSTAMANTE AGREED TO MAINTAIN CLOSE AND FRIENDLY CONTACTS WITH THE US DELEGATION TO KEEP US FULLY INFORMED. PERMREP EXPRESSED THANKS FOR THE VISIT AND EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THEY MIGHT RECONSIDER THE NEED FOR ANY ACTION AT UNESCO OR IN OTHER INTERNATIONAL FORUM.

4. COMMENT: BUSTAMANTE APPEARS TO HAVE BITTEN OFF MORE THAN HE WOULD LIKE TO CHEW. HOWEVER, UNLESS THE SITUATION CHANGES IT LIKELY THAT HE WILL HAVE TO PROCEED TO PREPARE RESOLUTIONS FOR INTRODUCTION AT THE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 24613

NESCO

SPRING EXBD AND AT THE UNESCO 19TH GENERAL CONFERENCE
IN OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 1976.

5. ALSO, THE DUTCH DELEGATION MADE INQUIRY OF US
DEL OFFICER ON THE PANAMANIAN QUESTION STATING THEY HAD
RECEIVED A CABLE FROM THEIR EMBASSY IN PANAMA INQUIRING
AS TO PLANNED PANAMANIAN ACTIONS. THIS INDICATES THAT
KNOWLEDGE OF A POSSIBLE PANAMAN-US CONFRONTATION IN
UNESCO BEGINNING TO GET AROUND. BASED ON PAST PRO-
CEDURES, IT IS THE JUDGMENT OF USDEL THAT PANAMA WILL
PROCEED AND WILL OBTAIN SUPPORT FROM MOST, IF NOT ALL,
OTHER LATIN AMERICAN DELEGATIONS. BUSTAMANTE IS CHAIR-
MAN OF THE LATIN AMERICAN GROUP AT UNESCO AND IS TAKING
A MORE ACTIVE ROLE THAN HIS PREDECESSORS. IT IS
LIKELY THAT OTHER LATIN AMERICAN DELEGATIONS WILL BE
MOST RELUCTANT TO GET INVOLVED IN THE PANAMA ISSUE,
BUT WILL RALLY AROUND PANAMA'S CAUSE WHEN THE TIMES
COMES. THE RISK IS THAT ANY CONFRONTATION WITH PANAMA
CAN HAVE AN EFFECT ON THE VOTES OF THE LATINS ON OTHER
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ISSUES IMPORTANT TO THE US, PARTICULARLY EFFORTS TO
REVERSE UNESCO ACTIONS CONCERNING ISRAEL. THE LATINS
HAVE BEEN CAUTIOUS AND RELUCTANT ON THIS ISSUE AND MAY
WITHHOLD SUPPORT IF A NORTH-SOUTH CONFRONTATION DEVELOPS
OVER PANAMA. THE VOTES OF THE LATINS ARE, OF COURSE,
VITAL IN OBTAINING A MAJORITY ON ANY ISSUE OF INTEREST
TO THE US AND IT IS THE SPILLOVER EFFECT THAT SHOULD BE
CAREFULLY WEIGHED IN CONSIDERING A US RESPONSE.
RUSH

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